

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 5-7 and 12-15 are rejected. Claims 5 and 6 are herein amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5-7 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,364,722) in view of Noda (JP 08-121411).

It is the position of the Office Action that Yuasa discloses the embodiments as claimed, with the exception of teaching a sealing device configured as a dustproof brush. The Office Action relies on Noda to provide this teaching. The Office Action notes that the allowability of claims 5 and 6 is withdrawn in view of the discovery of the Noda reference.

In response, Applicants herein amend claims 5 and 6 to be dependent on claim 1, as was the case prior to the amendment filed on December 15, 2009. Since claim 1 is indicated as allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 6 are also allowable. Additionally, each of claims 7 and 12-15 are dependent on either claim 5 or 6, and thus are indirectly dependent on an allowable claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 5-7 and 12-15 are allowable. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

As noted above, the Office Action indicates that claims 1, 4 and 8-11 are allowed. As such, Applicants herein amends claims 5-7 and 12-15, in order be directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1. Thus, all of claims 1 and 4-15 are allowable and should pass on to issue.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner deems that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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